

## THE NEW AND OLD

DIFFERENT SENSATIONS OF THOSE WHO ENTER CONGRESS.

## CONGRESSIONAL INCIDENTS

REMARKS THAT SHOW THE FEELING BENEATH THE SURFACE.

Story of Bourke Cockran—Sharp Remarks That Give Spice to Debate—The Incoming Should Not Attempt to Cross Swords With Old Stagers.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1899.—One by one they pass the arch of the lower entrance to the house of representatives, the new members and the old, but with different sensations. The old representatives know all the sinuities of the capitol and of legislation. They have experienced the cares and anxieties of congressional life, and some of them are growing round-shouldered under its responsibilities. New members are as yet



BOURKE COCKRAN.

tyros, with everything to learn. Some are diffident, others awed, a few presumptuous, and many controlled by curiosity. They enter upon their duties like boys attending a new school. Some preserve a dignified silence, awaiting developments and opportunities. Others chat glibly, and make humorous comments. There are eyes that glow with anticipation and souls eager for the fray. Visions of Webster, Clay and Calhoun float above them, and they burn to wear the spurs of statesmanship.

It is a great thing to be a congressman, said Bourke Cockran when he first passed under the arch, at the opening of the Fifty-fifth Congress. "To be one of 535 men chosen to represent over 60,000,000 of people is a great honor. Only think—each of us stands for 120,000 constituents. We ought to feel proud."

An hour afterward Mr. Cockran was a prominent figure in the caucus. A dispute arose over the selection of a candidate for doorkeeper. One of the nominees was accused of not paying his poker debts. There was a clash of arms. Two paladins of chivalry came into the conflict. One was from Georgia and the other from Arkansas. The former was afterward commissioner to President Cleveland. "Great and Good Friend" in the words of the latter, the other was the first American ambassador to the court of Russia. The future commissioner slapped the face of the ambassador, and the latter retaliated by taking the future commissioner by the collar and shaking his head into chancery. "It was a lively tournament, and one that reflected credit upon the physical alertness of the man from Arkansas. Statesmen of eminence interrupted the fight, and the combatants retired to the cloak-room. They quickly resumed their seats, and the entente cordiale was re-established."

Received a Shock. Cockran's congressional pride received a severe shock. The great honor conferred upon him seemed somewhat sullied. The lower extremities of his high ideas were withered, and he sunk to the level of common humanity.

The new members will experience many similar shocks in the house. Dignity in discussion is not characteristic. Horses that begin a race at full speed rarely win. It is the waiting horse that usually takes the prize. Conkling, Blaine, Randall, Reed, McMillan and a score or more of eminent statesmen are the ablest during their first term in congress. They were scoring for a start. The second term is the true test of ability and influence, and opens the road to national fame. More than one representative who remained silent in the first congress, congress will make his mark in this one.

The political field is open, and the opportunities for gaining fame are greater than those of any congress since the close of the war. The member who has studied the debates before him, and who has the ability to dampen his ardor and chill his intellectuality, but it is the true idea of the scene of action and the ability of those engaged in legislative combats.

Such a member can make a great interest in the discussion over the civil service law in the last house. Mr. Pearson, North Carolina, was the ablest lawyer in the interest of a horde of office seekers. Mr. Kerr, of Pennsylvania, interrupted him in this debate. There was a request made by the civil service commissioners.

"Any fool can ask a question," was the tart reply, "but it takes a different sort of an individual to answer it, as my friend from Pennsylvania knows."

The reply may have been satisfactory to Mr. Kerr, but he asked no more questions.

Called Mr. Quigg an Idiot. Later on Mr. Brosius, chairman of the committee on civil service reform, was speaking in defense of a system, when he was asked whether the civil service act was not unconstitutional. He replied:

"Let me illustrate what I have observed all around me in this debate. There was an old lawyer, who counseled his son, who was about to enter upon the practice of law. He said to him: 'My son, when the law is against you, impress upon the jury the importance of doing justice without regard to the law. When justice is against you, sound it into the ears of the jury that the law must be obeyed without regard to justice.'"

"Oh, my son," was the reply, "in that talk round it, my boy, talk round it."

While the house was laughing over the wally, Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, indignantly asked: "Are you not doing this now?"

Not long afterward Mr. Brosius made a quotation from "Hamlet," and Brumm glibly questioned him persistently on the line of constitutionality. Finally, Brosius turned upon him thus:

"What is the matter with my colleague's mind? I am reminded again of poor Hamlet. If my colleague were Hamlet and Ophelia were here and heard his statement, she would express herself in these pathetic words: 'Now see that noble and most sovereign reason, like sweet bells jangled out of tune and harsh, and in your case she would see no reason at all.' Was the prompt response. That Brumm felt the retort of Brosius, however, was shown a moment afterward. He asked no further questions. The line of inquiry was taken up by Mr. Quigg, of New York.

"There it is again," said Mr. Brosius. "The distinguished gentleman from New York is—"

"Another idiot," broke in Mr. Brumm, and the chamber rang with laughter.

Mahon of being a "me, too," to President McKinley. Mahon soon afterward got the door rattled by saying that he had been in the house six years, and that "of the demagogues of demagogues in that time, the worst demagogue was the gentleman from Medicine Lodge. He is recognized all over the country as the demagogue of this house."

"Well," replied Jerry, with great good nature, "when a gentleman is cornered in debate and finds he is on the wrong side, he generally retorts by calling his opponent a demagogue. I have voted with the Democrats when I thought they were right, and was called a demagogue by the Republicans; and I have voted with the Republicans when I thought they were right, and have been called a demagogue by the other side of the house."

"But you have never been called a pluto-togue," shouted John Williams, of Mississippi.

"No," responded Jerry, sadly, "I have not, and I never want to be. I consider it an honor, however, to be called a demagogue by such a man as the gentleman from Pennsylvania."

This brought Mr. Mahon again to his feet. "When the gentleman from Kansas," said he, "hung across this chamber the insinuation that I was hanging on to somebody's coat tail, I replied in the spirit which I thought the remark called for. When any man hangs on to me, and sits his constituents at the last election branded him as a demagogue, and decided to leave him at home."

Mr. Grosvenor's Retort. Some new member may have read with great interest the speech of Henry Clay advocating the cause of the Greeks in their struggle against the tyranny of the Turks. It was a speech that reflected great credit on the speaker, and enhanced the reputation of the orator. After its perusal the new member ought to direct his attention to some of the speeches on the Dingley bill. In the discussion over that measure General Joe Wheeler said that he "expected to see the names of the leaders of the great Democratic party engraved upon the tablets of fame in the bright light of coming history."

"A thousand years from now," retorted General Grosvenor, "they will sit pale ghosts upon the Stygian shores and read the record of their acts by the red light of hell."

A swirling discussion was a feature of the debate on the Indian appropriation bill. Free traders and protectionists were hammer and tongs. The silver question was lugged in and the melee was productive of hot words. General Grosvenor finally got the floor, and was inundating the house with Athenian philosophy when his colleague, James A. Norton, said:

"Permit me, when gold and silver were nearly at a parity, and the act of demonetization was passed, did you endorse that demonetization?"

"I am not called upon to forgive the crime of 1873, as you call it," was the general's response.

"You were one of the gentlemen," persisted Mr. Norton.

"I was not," Grosvenor blurted out. "I was an humble and private citizen of the state of Ohio."

"I never was a humble and private citizen," Mr. Norton retorted; "you have always been a public and a noisy one."

Should these extracts not serve to remove the august impression created by the speech of Henry Clay, a little tilt between the present speaker of the house and Jerry Simpson may come into play. The bond bill was under discussion, under a special order from the committee on rules, which only allowed an hour's debate. Mr. Henderson had secured five minutes in which to talk upon it. He was rattling along in good shape, when Jerry Simpson interrupted him with a question. Turning toward him, General Henderson said, impressively:

"A man is a very mean man who would try to steal a piece of five minutes, and none but a Popocrat would do it."

Jerry took his seat with a thoughtful expression of face and Henderson finished his remarks without further interruption.

Mr. Lewis Scores a Point. Further light for the new member might be obtained from a little dispute between Mr. Boutelle and Mr. Lewis, of Washington, over the naval appropriation bill. It drew Seneca E. Payne into the vortex. Mr. Boutelle had denied a statement made by Mr. Lewis.

"Of course," he added, "I could not expect the gentleman from Washington to accept a reasonable interpretation of any provision."

"I said some wise men differed," Mr. Lewis returned. "I did not say the gentleman from Maine."

"That is entirely satisfactory to me," was the response. "I wanted the gentleman to have the opportunity of passing that bouquet."

"There is no one who could so gracefully bear it as my friend from Maine," said Mr. Lewis. "He is the very burst of the blue."

"Mr. Chairman," shouted Mr. Payne, indignantly, "I must insist that this is all very nice, but it does not give us any light on the impending point of order."

This brought a broadside from Lewis. "If I had the power of all the X-rays in the world and the searchlights of all our warships combined," he said, "it would not be able to throw any light upon the murky mental recesses of the gentleman from New York."

These reminiscences are the vista of what is to come in the present congress. If the new member is wise, he will never forget the lesson of the day.

Mr. Mary Elizabeth Lease, who recently moved to this city from Kansas, intends to become an active citizen of New York. It is quite likely that she will be heard in debate in this community before long.

Mrs. Lease is said to be the only woman Mason in America. She declares her intention to take charge of the police department of this city. This trying position he filled with credit to the department, himself the Illinois state reformatory at Joliet, Ill., for which his efficiency was demonstrated by his success as the superintendent of the Pennsylvania reformatory.

Upon the election of Governor Tanner, Major McClaughry was elected to the position of warden of the state prison at Joliet, Ill. He remained until July last when he was elected to the position of warden of the state prison at Joliet, Ill. He remained until July last when he was elected to the position of warden of the state prison at Joliet, Ill.

At the breaking out of the rebellion, however, he organized a company of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Illinois infantry, of which he was chosen captain and served throughout the war.

Flattering. From the Luskite Blatter.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

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In concluding the notice the editor of the opportunity of his life by neglecting to say, "We wish the gay birds joy."

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